



GUIDING THE PROCESS OF INDIGENOUS LAW REVITALIZATION

Is there someone in your community who would like to learn about your laws through dialogue?

Someone who would like to help others gain confidence in working with your laws?

Someone who is interested in both learning from and teaching others?

Each Indigenous nation participating in the RELAW project will be asked to identify an individual to work with community researchers and the RELAW legal team. Together these individuals will be participants in a shared process of applied learning over the course of a year (see details below).

WHAT THE ROLE ENTAILS:

- The role of these individuals may look different and may be referred to differently in each participating nation, depending on your own laws and decision-making processes. In our materials we have referred to this role as a community facilitator or guide.
- Participants will gain skills and learning that will help them shape discussions in their community, creating space for thoughtful engagement with Indigenous law, assumptions, beliefs, values, processes and context.
- When we reflect on individuals we know who are skilled guides of community dialogue we observe that they have good people skills and are:
 - mindful;
 - attentive listeners with awareness of ethical responsibilities;
 - courageous, respectful and value the full expression of ideas; and,
 - committed to enabling the group to make informed decisions through dialogue without imposing their own view.
- Because designing and guiding community processes to make informed decisions about important issues can involve lots of planning, it is also helpful if individuals in this role are organized and have some experience with project management (or are well supported by other staff who have these skills).
- If possible, participants are encouraged to identify trusted family members, Elders, knowledge-keepers or other sources of support and guidance in their communities who can support them in their learning.

DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- Participants selected by their nation will be expected to attend three in-person learning sessions – tentatively scheduled for June 25-30, 2017; September 25-29, 2017; and June 11-15, 2018 (12-15 days total) – as well as weekly check-in calls as needed. Participants' travel costs will be covered to attend these sessions.
- The project will involve a practicum in which participants will be responsible (with training and mentorship support) for designing and implementing a community process to support their nation in applying its own laws to a particular environmental issue or aspect of land and resource management in the territory.
- During the practicum portion of the project (an approximately 6-9 month period between October 2017 and June 2018), participants should expect to be working full time or nearly full time on the project.
- Scholarships of up to \$30,000 are available based on need and circumstances to offset the costs to the nation of the community facilitators' salary during the RELAW project, particularly the practicum period.
- Participating individuals will have the opportunity to engage with their nation's own laws and processes regarding ecological governance and to explore how these can and should shape community decision-making processes about land and resource management.
- Identifying how the role of community facilitator/guide relates to the specific legal processes from their own legal tradition will be a key part of participants' learning during the RELAW project. It may be similar though not identical to an existing or traditional role in the community. For example in some Coast Salish traditions a šq̓iq̓él or hired "speaker" may guide their family in the procedures involved in ceremony and relay the words of the family to others in the Bighouse, but this role may not exist in other legal traditions.
- It is our goal to support participants in shaping their role into one that is appropriate for their nation's legal tradition.

For more information about the RELAW project please contact:

Maxine Matilpi, RELAW Project Lead

Maxine_Matilpi@wcel.org

1-800-330-WCEL ext. 226



West Coast Environmental Law
200-2006 W. 10th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6J 2B3
Coast Salish Territories
admin@wcel.org



Indigenous Law Research Unit
Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
PO Box 1700, STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2
ilru@uvic.ca